

What is claimed:

1. A package adapted to contain a hard copy consumable, the package comprising a protection element, the element being connected to the package and  
5 having a surface adapted to be removably connected to a portion of the consumable, such that the element is arranged to be removed from the portion of the consumable by the action of removing the consumable from the package.
2. A package according to claim 1, wherein the element is arranged to protect one  
10 or more features associated with the consumable whilst it is connected to the consumable.
3. A package according to claim 2, wherein the protection element is adapted to be removably bonded to one or more surfaces of the consumable.  
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4. A package according to claim 2, wherein the protection element is adapted to be removably retained against or adjacent to a surface of the consumable by a mechanical fastener.
- 20 5. A package according to claim 4, wherein the mechanical fastener is a clip or a frangible coupling.
6. A package according to claim 3 or claim 4, wherein the connector is an integral part of the package.  
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7. A package according to claim 3 or claim 4, wherein the connector is not an integral part of the package.
8. A package according to claim 7, wherein the connector is bonded to the  
30 package.

9. A package according to claim 7, wherein the connector is connected to the package by a mechanical fastener.

10. A package according to claim 3 or claim 4, wherein the consumable is a printhead or cartridge for use in an inkjet printer.

11. A package according to claim 10, wherein the connector is adapted to substantially cover or protect a nozzle plate associated with the printhead or cartridge.

12. A package according to claim 11, wherein the connector is a tape.

13. A package according to claim 12, wherein the tape made from a plastic material or rubber material such as a PVC or PET based material.

14. A hard copy consumable kit comprising a hard copy consumable a housing arranged to store the consumable, and a protective tape bonded at one end to the housing and at another end to a surface of the consumable, the tape being arranged to be removed from the a surface of the consumable by the action of removing the consumable from the package.

15. A method of packaging a hard copy consumable, comprising the steps of:  
locating the consumable adjacent packaging material;  
connecting the consumable to the packaging material with a connector, the connecting step having a sub-step of removably connecting a first portion of the connector to a portion of the consumable, such that the connector is arranged to be removed from the portion of the consumable by the action of removing the consumable from the packaging.

16. A method according to claim 15, wherein the step of connecting the connector to the surface of the consumable has the effect of protecting part of the consumable.

17. A method according to claim 15, wherein the step of connecting the first portion of the connector to the surface of the consumable.

18. A method according to claim 15, further comprising the step of bonding or  
5 otherwise fixing a second portion of the connector to the package.

19. A method according to claim 15, wherein the connecting step is carried out before the locating step.

10 20. A method according to claim 15, Wherein the consumable is a printhead or cartridge and the sub-step of removably connecting a first portion of the connector to a portion of the consumable is arranged to substantially cover or protect a nozzle plate associated with the printhead or cartridge.

15 21. A method of making a package adapted to package a hard copy consumable, comprising the steps of:

creating a connector, the connector being connected to, or forming part of the package and being adapted to be removably connected to a portion of the consumable, such that when the connector is connected to the consumable, it  
20 protects at least a portion of the consumable, and when the consumable is removed from the packaging, the connector is adapted to be removed from the portion of the consumable.

22. A package adapted to contain for a retail item, the package comprising a  
25 protection element, the element being connected to the package and having a surface adapted to be removably connected to a portion of the item, such that the element is arranged to be removed from the portion of the item by the action of removing the item from the package.